

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2361

S E C R E T ATHENS 0707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR VN KN

SUBJ: GREEK INQUIRY REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM
AND NORTH KOREA

REF: ATHENS 0801 8 FEB 1973

1. IN COURSE OF FEB 1 DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON OTHER MATTERS (SEPTELS), AMBASSADOR PAPAIOANNOU, CHIEF OF FIRST POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (COMMUNIST COUNTRIES), MFA, ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. CITING EARLIER US POSITION (REFTEL), PAPAIOANNOU NOTED THAT GREECE MIGHT VERY WELL BE LAST NATO COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH HANOI. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GREECE HAD ONLY A FEW INSTANCES OF NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DEALINGS WITH NORTH VIETNAM, PAPAIOANNOU NEVERTHELESS OBSERVED THAT GREEK AMBASSADOR TO PEKING FEELS HE IS "NOT A MEMBER OF THE CLUB" BECAUSE GREECE IS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN PEKING WHICH DOES NOT ALSO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH HANOI.

2. GREEK FLAG MERCHANT VESSELS TRAVEL RELATIVELY FREQUENTLY TO NORTH KOREA, PAPAIOANNOU CONTINUED, AND A STRONGER CASE COULD BE MADE FOR DESIRABILITY OF SOME OFFICIAL GREEK PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. HE ADDED

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NO GREEK INITIATIVE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT.

3. WE UNDERTOOK TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT US VIEW ON
QUESTION OF NATO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH
NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. PLEASE ADVISE. TASCA

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NNN

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